

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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R 210605Z APR 76 ZFF 5

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 386

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: ACCUSATIONS OF NEW BORDER INCIDENT

1. THE BDG HAS LODGED "A STRONG PROTEST" WITH THE GOI OVER WHAT IT CLAIMS WAS AN INTENSIVE THREE-HOUR SHELLING AND ATTACK BY THE BSF UPON A BORDER OUTPOST IN THE HALUAGHAT AREA OF MYMENSIGH YESTERDAY MORNING (APRIL 20). ACCORDING TO A BDG PRESS NOTE ISSUED AT MIDNIGHT AND APPEARING IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS, THE BSF IS SAID TO HAVE FIRED APPROXIMATELY 200 SHELLS AT THE BANDARKATA BORDER OUTPOST; A FOLLOW-UP ATTACKED, THE OUTPOST WAS REPORTEDLY REPULSED ALTHOUGH ONE ANSAR WAS KILLED INSIDE THE BOP AND EIGHT PEOPLE INJURED. WE UNDERSTAND FROM VOA AND BBC THIS MORNING THAT THE GOI IN TURN HAS ACCUSED THE BANGLADESHIS OF FIRING ACROSS THE BORDER. FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE BDG PRESS NOTE:

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2. BEGIN TEXT. INDIAN BORDER SECURITY FORCE INDULGED TODAY IN INTENSIVE SHELLING AT BANDARAKATA BORDER OUTPOST UNDER FALUAGHAT POLICE STATION IN MYMENSINGH DISTRICT. THE SHELLING BEGAN AT 0500 HOURS THIS MORNING AND CONTINUED FOR THREE HOURS.

APPROXIMATELY TWO HUNDRED MORTAR SHELLS WERE USED SOME OF WHICH LANDED ON THE BORDER OUTPOST ITSELF. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN ATTACK ON THE BOP FROM ACROSS THE BORDER WHICH WAS REPULSED BY THE JAWANS OF BANGLADESH RIFLES.

AS A RESULT OF THE SHELLING AND THE ATTACK, ONE ANSAR NAMED ABDUL JALIL, SON OF JANAB MOFIZULLAH OF VILLAGE BOHAINAGAR WAS KILLED INSIDE THE BOP. THREE BDR PERSONNEL AND 5 VILLAGERS INCLUDING THREE WOMEN RECEIVED INJURIES APART FROM KILLING OF A NUMBER OF CATTLEHEAD AND DAMAGE TO CROPS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH HAS LODGED A STRONG PROTEST WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AGAINST THIS UNFRIENDLY AND PROVOCATIVE ACT AND DEMCFCED THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES BE STOPPED FORTHWITH IN THE INTEREST OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS.

IT IS TO BE RECALLED THAT SUCH UNPROVOKED FIRING HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW ALL ALONG THE BORDER OF MYMENSINGH DISTRICT. INITIAL PROTESTS FROM BANGLADF H MOSTLY WENT UNHEEDED WHEN THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH PROPOSED A MEETING OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL BDR AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL BSF IN AN EFFORT OF PUT A STOP TO SUCH INCIDENTS.

IN PURSUANCE OF DECISION OF THE MEETING WHICH WAS HELD IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR IN DACCA, A JOINT ENQUIRY TEAM WAS SET UP TO LOOK INTO A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF RAIDS AND SHELLING INSIDE BANGLADESH TERRITORY THAT TOOK PLACE AFTER 19TH JANUARY, '76.

THE TEAM COMPOSED OF THE DIRECTOR BDR AND THE DIG BSF CONCLUDED THE ENQUIRY RECENTLY. BUT WHEN THE FORMER WENT TO SEE HIS COUNTERPART AT DAWKI (INDIA) TODAY AS SCHEDULED TO FINALIZE THE REPORT OF THE JOINT ENQUIRY TEAM, THE LATTER REFUSED TO HOLD THE MEETING AND THE DIRECTOR BDR HAD TO RETURN TO SYLHET. THIS IS IN GROSS CONTRAVENTION OF THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE AGREEMENT ON JOINT ENQUIRY AND IS MOST REGRETTABLE.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH HAS ALSO LODGED A PROTEST WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THIS CONNECTION AN REQUESTED THAT STEPS BE TAKEN FOR IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT ENQUIRY TEAM TO FINALIZE THE REPORT. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT: WE SEEKING MORE DETAILS FROM BDG.
BOSTER

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